

From: rlboyd
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I think the settlement was a nice way to show the world that "Department of Justice" is a misnomer. Maybe you should change your name to the "Department of Business Interests and Bribes". The courts found Microsoft guilty of illegally using their monopoly power. Instead of having the punishment fit the crime you give them yet another slap on the wrists. There is no way for the settlement to be enforced because if Microsoft doesn't abide by the settlement what is their punishment? Two more years oversight. Wow, Microsoft will really want to avoid something that strict. We both know the best way to restore competition in the software industry is to split up Microsoft. Where would we be if Standard Oil or AT&T was still intact? With \$36 billion in the bank, Microsoft has the cash to continue to eliminate competition in the industry by buying up weaker competitors weakened by the current economic climate. You split up Microsoft and you divide the amount of cash they have. A three-way split would be very effective.

When you split the company, not only do you divide the cash they have but you also separate the tools used to maintain their monopoly. The first tool is the market share they have in the Operating System market. This monopoly powered their take over of the Internet Browser market through bundling. People would rather use the browser that came with the operating system than take the time to download a browser from a competitor (a feat that could take 30 minutes to 1 hour back in the days before wide adoption of broadband). The download time is very inconvenient. The only way to put competitors on equal footing is to either ship the Microsoft Operating System with Microsoft Internet Explorer and other browsers or ship the Microsoft Operating system with no browsers. This allows people to choose their browser based on the quality of the browser and not convenience. This would work for other software as well. Splitting the current company into three companies, one for operating systems, one for multimedia and internet applications, and one for office software would help ensure that Microsoft no longer has an unfair advantage through bundling of their own software with their Operating System. We can already see that they are using the bundling strategy in the new Windows XP Operating System. They have bundled their own browser, media player, software to encode music to Microsoft WMA format but not MP3 format. It seems that the DOJ bowing down to Microsoft hasn't slowed Microsoft down one bit.

You need to force Microsoft to open up ALL APIs, not just those that Microsoft doesn't deem to be a security threat, to allow other software to work as tightly with Microsoft Operating Systems as Microsoft software. You need to force Microsoft to release information to allow other software to read patented file formats such as .doc and .asf/.wmv and future formats. Also, any Microsoft networking protocols must be open to prevent them from taking control of the internet.

I can't even buy a name brand PC without a Microsoft Operating System on it. Don't believe me? Try buying one from Dell, HP, Gateway, IBM, Compaq. See what I mean.

The Microsoft monopoly must not be extended if for no other reason that national security. The Center for Strategic and International Studies has already released that study that says the use of Microsoft software poses a security risk.

In closing, the settlement is another example that law in this country applies to some and not to others. So, I don't expect you to do anything that might be confused for JUSTICE in this case. You are, afterall, an impotent organization, headed by a right-wing fanatic, appointed by a illegitimate president.